

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

BOXED IN



Photo: Sue Weller

METAL BOX last month gave 30 days notice that the firm's Theydon Road plant in Upper Clapton was going to be shut, with the loss of 350 jobs. There was some hint of what was in store last year when the company made 93 people redundant.

The company made the announcement on Friday 24 August, during a lunch hour meeting with representatives from 5 unions who called to discuss the Clapton factory's future prospects. The officials might have foreseen what was coming, but they were still shocked by the suddenness of the announcement. Management sim-

ultaneously circulated redundancy notices among the staff and gave them the afternoon off.

The following Wednesday (29 August) the workforce held a mass meeting and voted to set up a joint shop stewards meeting, the first time this has happened at the factory.

Apathy

The stewards accused the management of "utter intransigence and total apathy for the commitment of the workforce to keep the factory open."

They also explained that once the management decided to close Clapton, they starved

the factory of orders and work. In spite of this the factory improved productivity.

The stewards continued: "It shows an absolute lack of social conscience for the many years of loyal service by the employees in an area of extreme unemployment and social decay. Metal Box has taken profits out of Hackney for years. Now they want to take our jobs. The message from the workforce is that 'WE WILL FIGHT FOR OUR JOBS'."

● Metal Box closed its factory in Urswick Road, E9 in 1981, one of five MB factories to shut around London in the last five years. Metal Box made profits of £70 in 1983/4.

£3M BOOST FOR ETHNIC SERVICES

THIS MONTH the Council's Social Services Committee is expected to approve a £3 million package aimed at helping hundreds of elderly handicapped and mentally ill people from Hackney's black and ethnic minority communities.

The plan will also strengthen support inside those communities for families in stress and parents with young children, as well as for blind, deaf and house-bound people.

The proposal will be implemented initially with £750,000 from Hackney Borough Council. Under Section 11 of the 1966 Local Government Act, which provides for the special needs of "New Commonwealth" citizens, the Home Office will pay for 75% of the project--an additional £2½ million.

The plans include:

- a new meals-on-wheels service for elderly and house-bound Afro-Caribbean, Asian and Cypriot people
- 12 new care workers for the mentally handicapped
- a new mental health unit focussing on the needs of the black community
- 10 new liaison officers to work with non-English speaking people in the Asian, African, Cypriot and Chinese communities
- 22 new nursery workers to boost the number of places available for ethnic minority under-fives
- 8 extra family workers and support services, including a clinical psychologist, to help families in stress.

Ambitious

Patrick Kodikara, Chair of the Council's Social Services Committee, explained: "This is by far the most ambitious package we have ever put together. Previously we've concentrated on improving employment opportunities for black and ethnic minority people in

the borough. Now, for the first time, we've really addressed ourselves to service provision."

"We have gone to great lengths to work with all the communities -- Afro-Caribbean, Asian, Greek and Turkish Cypriot and Chinese -- to identify their most pressing needs and ensure that we come up with the goods," said Cllr Kodikara.

The £3 million package will create 120 new posts in the Social Services department and, subject to Home Office approval, it should get under way by the end of the year.

Redressing imbalance

"This plan is not reverse discrimination," said Patrick Kodikara, "it is redressing an imbalance that already exists. Black people pay rates too, and they have been ignored."

"For years the black community has missed out on the services that have existed. We are trying to make them available to everybody," he said at a press conference called to announce the plans.

The £3m package will amount to a 10% increase in the Social Services budget. When combined with special equal employment opportunities and training programmes for council workers, as well as grants to community groups, the Social Services feels that it has taken major steps towards "establishing a trans-cultural model of service provision". This is Councilspeak for giving better social services to Hackney's black and white residents.

If the Home Office accept the proposals, it will bring more than £2 into Hackney, which makes a change from hearing about how the government wants to cut back Council budgets. The funds will also be excluded from spending target calculations, and so be exempt from rate-capping.

PAGE 3 - FURTHER EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

LAST MONTH Lawrence Liverspot got the shock of his life at the Tanner's Hall-- one of Stoke Newington's trendy night-life hot-spots.

Lucky Larry asked to buy the 653rd copy of last month's issue AND WON 85p!!! Our seller refused to accept the pound note that Larry offered. Instead he handed over the winning copy and Larry's Bonanza prize IN CASH, ON THE SPOT.

HPP - WE PAY YOU TO READ IT!

All you have to do to win this month's £1 BONUS PRIZE is match the typesetting errors on PAGE 3 with the "Box/Time" signing-on code on your HACKNEY BONANZA CARD (Available from the Department of Employment, Spurstowe Terrace E8 & Kingsland Road E2).

The first contestant to contact our competition judge-- the HPP seller wearing the "Going Local" T-shirt--will be taken by 38 bus (Top deck treatment there and back!) to the glamorous Nightingale Estate where she or he will be presented with a certificate entitling them to £1 off a subscription to the next 12 issues of the HYPER HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS -- See back page.

(PS-- John wants to know when he can have his money back)

INSIDE:

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SUPPORT THE MINERS
NUM
STOP PIT CLOSURES

HPP'S

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BONANZA!



Centerprise, enterprise

Centerprise has recently published its annual report for 1983-4. It sees the year as generally having been a successful one. The organisation is now on a more secure economic footing, is involved in a diverse range of activities on the premises and out in the community, has a full compliment of workers and a dynamic council of management. The year ahead is, however, not so rosy in terms of the likely cut-backs in local authority funding and the demise of the GLC.

All aspects of Centerprise's work in the past 12 months are covered by the report: The Bookshop was refurbished thanks to help from the Greater London Arts Association (GLAA) and Penguins. It is now better managed with customer orders at twice the level they were in the previous year. The Public Office of Centerprise moved into a larger, better equipped room. It now has a permanent worker based there. As for the Coffee Bar, the report quotes a customer's reaction: "the food has improved, but the decor hasn't." Centerprise applied for a grant to carry out overall improvements to their building. The money obtained from the Council will, however, only allow for certain repairs to be completed - adequate heating and structural alterations will have to wait.

The Advice Centre took on an increased number of cases. This, added to staff changes meant that it was difficult to maintain the outreach work. The majority of cases concerned housing and supplementary benefit.

The Young Photographers were

active - with the help of three newly appointed part-time workers. An edition of eight postcards called "Images of Hackney" were produced and put on sale. The group is now busy producing a tape-slide show about their activities. "We have remained committed," states the report, "to working with young people in a way that encourages self-reliance and independence, and our group work has reflected this." Work with members of the Hackney Unemployed Media Scheme (HUMS) has, for example been consolidated to the extent where they are now capable of running their own affairs and in particular their magazine "Starting Out".

It has been an encouraging 12 months for the publishing project. A new catalogue was put out as part of a successful promotion campaign. Many back titles were reprinted while in the course of the year, eight new books were published. Various workshops - Strike Songs, Women Writers and Hackney Writers - continued to flourish.

The Reading Centre is now able to offer basic education in reading, writing and maths to around 60 students. As well as the regular weekly sessions, special short courses and a summer scheme were also organised. Four new titles written by students at the centre were published. Although there are two full-time and three part-time workers, volunteer tutors are crucial to the fulfilment of the teaching programme. During the year, training courses were run for 29 new tutors.



letters

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YOUR CHEST

WRITE TO HPP!
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CLAIMANTS' UNIONS

Dear friends,

Many of your readers will be unemployed, sick, invalids, single parents or pensioners and will be feeling depressed and frustrated at the attitude of successive governments, especially this one, towards them.

Claimants' unions, first formed 15 years ago, campaign against victimisation, harassment and the infamous fraud squad, the Specialist Claims Control Unit (S.C.U.M.M.) We also help our fellow claimants to fight the D.H.S.S. on every issue. We go with claimants for interviews and to appeal tribunals.

Our policy includes; adequate fuel and heating allowances; proper heating in all homes and an end to cut offs for non-payment of bill bills; long-term rates of benefit for all claimants, including the unemployed;

an end to housing benefit and a return to full payment of rates and rents and service charges with freedom for tenants to pay their own rent in their own time and an end to the co-habitation rule.

We have claimants unions at Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, Hillrise Road, N.19 (Mondays and Wednesdays 2pm-5pm) 272 7569,

11 Barnsbury Road, N1. (Fridays 10am-1pm) 837 8078 and 296 Bethnal Green Road, E2. (Fridays 10am onwards) 739 4173.

We are trying to form a C.U. in Hackney and those interested should either telephone one of the above numbers or write to me direct.

We are also giving full support to the C.H.A. R. campaign for a change of the present furniture grants system for single homeless people,

Yours sincerely,
Douglas Kepper.

114a Forest Road,
Hackney E8.

KENT NUM
Support
the miners
fight for
jobs

GOAL NOT DOLE

Workers at Stamford Hill bus garage showed their support for the striking Kent miners in a slightly different way by arranging a sponsored football match against the Tilmanstone colliery. The venture raised nearly £500 and a group of 26 people went down to Kent to play for, and support, Stamford Hill against the Tilmanstone team.

Having avoided the Dartford Tunnel, the party was well received by the Kent miners. They were shown around the strike office and the food distribution centre and then around the pit itself. After a few drinks the game got going, and in a close-fought match, with plenty of strikes by both sides, Stamford Hill ran out winners by 6-5.

A social followed in the evening, and further solidarity was cemented over a number of rounds (of drinks). Further sporting links are now being planned. Stamford Hill team described the Kent miners as "some of the finest, most determined people you are ever likely to meet. Having spent a day in their company, it's easier to understand what solidarity and unity are all about. It's also a lot easier to see that with our continued support, they will never be defeated - football excepted perhaps!

LAURIE BARRATT PRESENTS

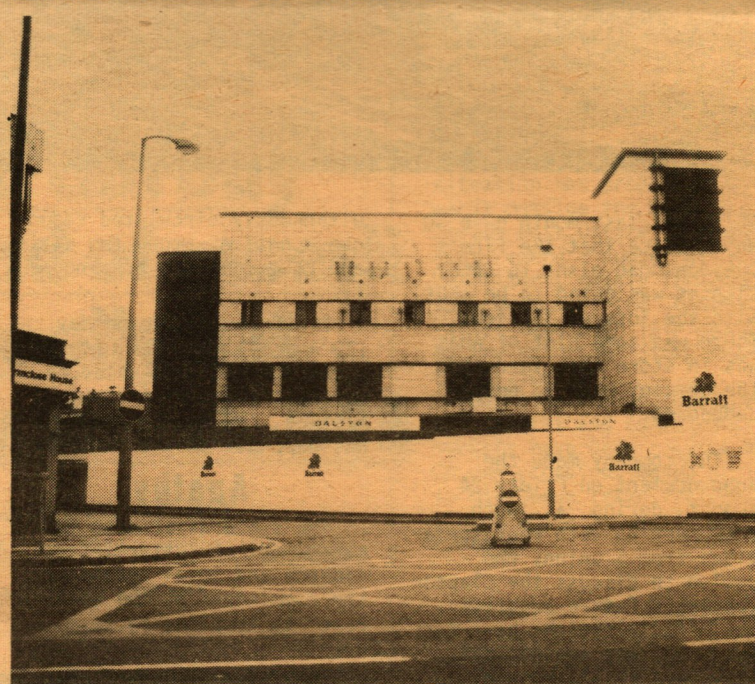


Photo: Sue Weller

IS THIS THE HOME YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF? Barratt's, specialists in building cardboard boxes for first-time buyers, have started conversion work on this exclusive site in Kingsland Road.

Yes folks! The Dalston Odeon rides again. For little more than £30,000 you can have your very own luxury cupboard in this classic example of 60s concrete slab architecture. The building work to convert the interior into mostly 1-bed flats is scheduled to be completed by autumn next year. Sales will start around Easter. Some people wanted to turn this residential jewel into a community arts centre, but Sir Laurie Barratt had other ideas and Hackney Council agreed with him.

If this exotic proposition doesn't interest you, how about something a little more practical in the Isle of Dogs? As a special incentive Barratt's are offering high-powered microwave cooking facilities right next door to one estate, courtesy of Mercury Communications and their stylish receiving dishes. Health hazards? Don't listen to the nanby-pambies. Why not give Barratt's a ring and discover the morally uplifting qualities of home ownership.

• Sir Laurie Barratt last month refused to confirm or deny suggestions that he was negotiating for a tract of property in the vicinity of Greenham Common and another plot near Sizewell, Essex.

5 YEAR JOB PLAN

HACKNEY Borough Council will unveil a five year plan to redress the racial imbalance of its workforce at a "Race and Employment" conference to be held at the Town Hall, Mare Street, on Saturday 15 September.

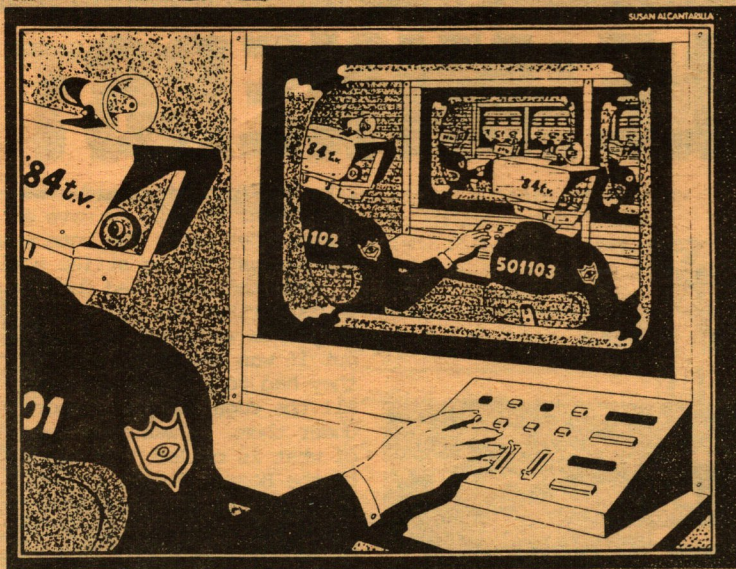
The Council feels that its own employment policies can play a leading role in improving opportunities for Hackney's black and ethnic minority residents, who make up one third of the borough's population.

Currently the Council estimates that 19.4% of its workers are black or members of ethnic minorities, but the staff are not evenly spread around. For example only 7% of the Council's senior officers come from ethnic minorities. The five year plan lays down yearly targets to try and increase minority employment to 35% in all Council directorates and at all staffing levels.

Sam Yeboah, an Equal Opportunities project officer, told HPP: "This is quite a bold step forward for the Council. In 1978 they set a 10% target to boost black and minority representation at Senior Officer level and above by 1985. That was what they thought they could achieve in the circumstances. This time they have not just plucked a figure out of the air. They have looked at the racial composition of the borough and aimed to have staffing levels reflect that across the board."

The "Race and Employment" conference, which runs from 9.30am to 1.30pm, will give union reps, ethnic and community organisations and members of the public a chance to discuss the proposals and offer suggestions to improve them. The meeting

will be chaired by Andrew Puddephat, Deputy Leader of the Council, and speakers will include Leader Hilda Kean and John McCafferty, Chair of Staffing and Equal Opportunities Committee.



Watching the watchers

THE Hackney Campaign Against the Police Bill has changed its name to the Hackney Police Monitoring Group. As the extended powers of the police take effect (even it seems before the bill has become law), the group has changed its aims to include issues of police harassment as they occur.

Hackney was one of the areas chosen by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman to test out his 'multi-agency' approach. This involves crime prevention panels, neighbourhood watch schemes and police infiltration into the daily lives of people in the borough. The group believes that this approach is not a radical departure from the racist and oppressive policing Hackney has suffered over the past 10 years; the police are merely trying to gain more control by gathering information on all kinds of people on the streets, housing estates, at work places and in schools. This information is being stored on local computers and will soon be centralised.

The Hackney Police Monitoring Group intends to counter this police surveillance with community surveillance of the police. Police activity in local schools is a particular concern.

At a meeting in July with 80 people and representatives

from the Hackney Teachers Association and the Roach Family Support Committee, the Group were not surprised to see 2 plainclothes and a uniformed policeman in attendance. The meeting voted to send the cops away before it discussed Newman's new policy. There could have been no better illustration of the approach.

RACIST ATTACKS

The Monitoring Group is also concerned with the recent increase in racist attacks throughout East London. It is organising coaches to picket West Ham Magistrates court on 14 September in support of the Newham 7 (Contact 254 0025 for more information) and a "Fightback Now" meeting at the Brady Centre, Hanbury St, E1 on October 21 to lay the groundwork for an East London anti-racist network.

The Hackney Police Monitoring Group is an independent organisation and its members asked HPP to mention that it urgently needs money to carry on its work. It costs £2 for individuals to affiliate to the Group, and £5 for organisations.

Contact the Hackney Police Monitoring Group at Box 31, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

OAKDALE DIARY

On Tuesday 14th August 24 people from Chat's Palace and 4 from Hackney Greenham Groups were invited to a Charity Concert for the miners in Oakdale, Gwent, organised by Oakdale Women's Support Group.

The Chat's Palace contingent provided some of the entertainment - a series of solo performances culminating in some good dance-able music from Tony and the Vagabonds: at this point (female)members of the audience from Hackney as well as Oakdale, got up to dance in front of the stage.

The women from Hackney Greenham groups then presented a cheque for £536.38 to the Oakdale Women's Support Group. These were the proceeds from the Women's Benefit held on Friday 13th July in Stoke Newington. The women from Hackney stressed the links between the two women's groups, and between the two issues - links which are being continued through the 'Women Against Pit Closures' march in London on August 11th, and the 'Mines not Missiles' women's marches from military bases to collieries which took place recently.

Cake

The Oakdale Women's Support Group was applauded by everyone, and their 'chair-lady', Shirley, was presented with a birthday cake.

After a short break and a round of Bingo, the performances continued with two Welsh singers, Iris Conway ('Lady Sings the Blues'), and David Alexander, a singer from a mining family who wasn't

sure whether he was related to Tom Jones. Welsh singing voices came fully up to expectations.

After more dancing to Tony and the Vagabonds - this time some of the men ventured to join in - the evening was rounded off with the Welsh National Anthem and a rendering of 'Arthur Scargill Walks on Water' by the multi-talented training officer from Oakdale Colliery.

The next morning the visitors from Hackney were shown round the pit surface of Oakdale Colliery - a rare privilege, since even Shirley, from the Women's Support Group, said she had never been on a guided tour like this before. The tour took in the machinery - worth millions of pounds - used to transport men and coal in and out of the mine. In the control room the layout of the mine could be seen on a VDU: workers can be located and contacted by radio - much to the delight of visiting school children able to speak to their fathers working down the mine.

By then it was time to leave for London - many people from Oakdale were to be involved in a large scale 'Chartists' March' the next day.

The visitors from Hackney received an overwhelming welcome - for many, it was an opportunity to renew contacts already made. More visitors from Oakdale will be in Hackney on 26th September to attend a Benefit for the miners at - where else? - Chat's Palace.

EVERYBODY'S HACKNEY

Hackney's Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Group has organised a series of meetings in conjunction with Hackney Adult Education Institute called 'Everybody's Hackney'. They write:

"If you are disabled you will be hard put to recognise this borough as everybody's Hackney. It doesn't feel that way when trying to negotiate broken pavements if you are blind, or trying to attend a meeting in the Town Hall if you are in a wheelchair.

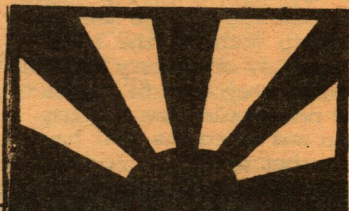
We particularly want to hear from people who have disabilities about the problems they face and the opportunities they have found.

We would like to hear from people with every kind of physical disability. This would include, amongst others, people with hearing problems or speech problems, people who are blind or partially sighted, people with multiple sclerosis, arthritis, diabetes, epilepsy and other chronic disorders, and people who have suffered a stroke as well as people who have to use a wheelchair.

The main aim of the meetings will be to provide those who have to live with a disability with a forum for the expression of opinions on the quality of life in Hackney and what can be done to improve it. The meetings will be open to everyone but the

principle speakers will be people with physical disabilities."

Each of the meetings has been given a general theme, but the specific content of an evening will be decided after we have heard from people who want to take part. The three themes are: A Place to Live (Monday 1st October); What We do With Our Lives (Monday 29th October) and Personal Relations (Monday 26th November).



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In October 1983 we carried Eric Hobsbawm's article on Labour's Lost Millions, which sparked a debate that is still raging.

In January 1984 David Edgar contributed his visionary essay on 1997, which devastatingly illustrated how Thatcherism might develop.

In April 1984 Bea Campbell's 'How the Other Half Lives' brilliantly demolished many of the Left's myths about the labour movement.

DID YOU MISS ANY OF THESE?

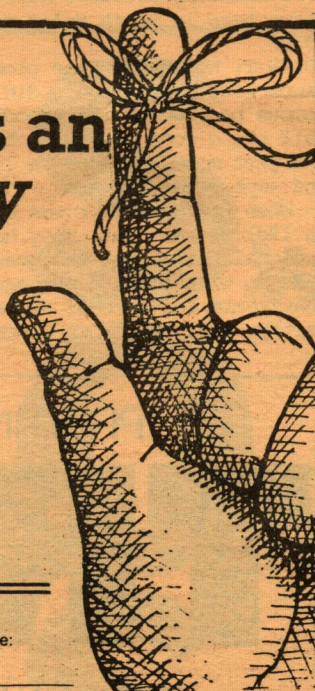
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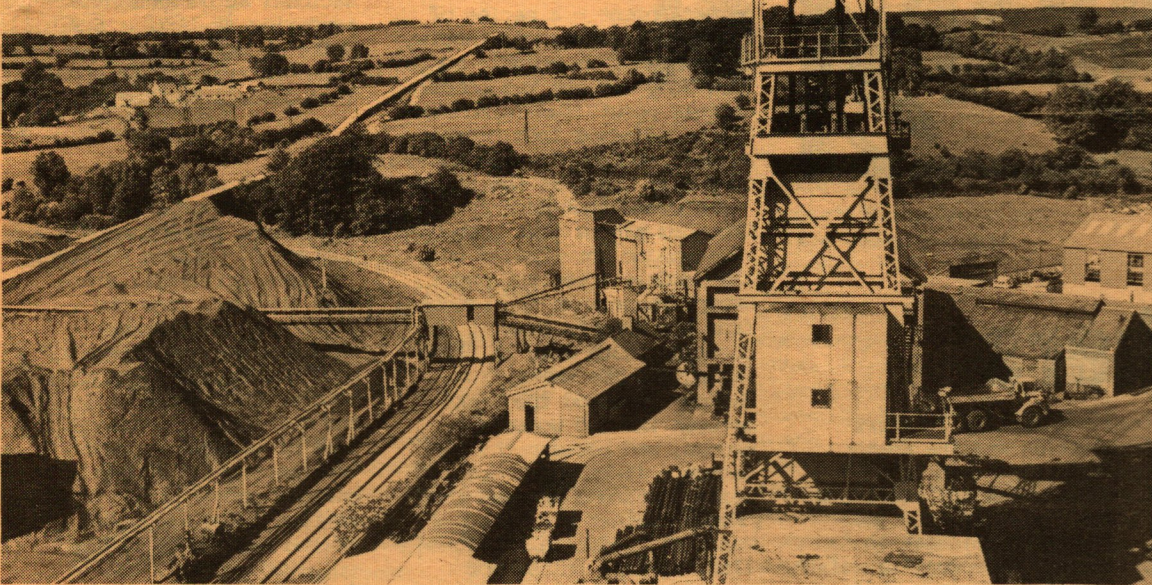
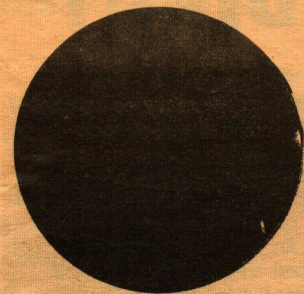
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THE HPP INTERVIEW

OAKDALE MINERS: WE CAN



Oakdale colliery, Gwent. Photo: Jenny Matthews

OAKDALE MINERS Colin Tapper, Colin Walkes and Glenn Turner are using a office in Hackney Town Hall as a campaign base. Three members of HPP's editorial collective talked with them there for almost two hours last month. The miners told us about their community and about their 44-week long dispute with the NCB. They have been out on strike since April.

The Oakdale colliery in Gwent is made up of three pits: Oakdale, Markham and Cleynon North, which are connected underground with a heading at Oakdale. About 2,300 people are employed in the complex.

Colin Tapper has worked at Oakdale for 19 years. He is a Dust Suppression fitter and Compensation Secretary for the local NUM Lodge. Assistant mason Glenn Turner is a member of the Lodge committee and has worked at the pit for 8 years. Colin Walkes is a Loco fitter and 16-year rank and file NUM member. Like the South Wales coalfield that surrounds it, Oakdale village has declined in the last few years.

HPP: Could you tell us a bit about Oakdale?

COLIN T: It's a pit village, fairly rural. We've lost about 4,000 but now I'd say there are around 5-6,000 people. The big problem now is that you've no longer got community pits. When I started work at Oakdale there were a few men from Tredegar, and all the others were from around Oakdale. But now we've got people from as far away as Rhymney, Pontypool and Newport. So when they go home at the end of their shift, they're going to far-reaching corners. You haven't got people from the village meeting as much; going to the local institute, or library and talking as they used to. We've had new people come in from pits and factories that have been shut down.

HPP: What's the mood of the families back in Oakdale?

COLIN T: In Oakdale it's dead solid. We hold meetings every Friday since the first day of the strike where men can air their grievances and things which need to come out. Everyone in Oakdale is solid, rock solid. Our problem is people who don't work in the industry.

Quite a lot of people don't want to understand what it's all about. They read the Sun, Express and Mail and they say "Oh, greedy miners,

looking for these big wages." Whereas my average weekly wage is about £78, Colin's is not a lot more and Glenn's is about £60. What people don't realise is that a face worker gets about £130, which gives him a take home pay of about £87. That's the top rate and there are 16 grades under that in the mining industry. Some men on the surface at our colliery are on Family Income Supplement before the strike.

Colin W: At the beginning of the strike I felt very disappointed. The people of our area were looking after themselves. They didn't give a damn. The strike has turned people to thinking about each other. It can be a great change of tide against this present government. This government doesn't understand that people will help each other. And, in their jargon, that does not 'compute'.

"People helping each other?" And what do they do when people in London go on the street and collect food? They go into the archives and they look up a Vagrants Act from the 1820's that says you can't beg. And that's what they've been up to. But the people have started to twig; the wonderful thing about this strike is that people are starting to realise that this Thatcher Iron Maiden is not undefeatable. And the people have got the power, if only they realise it.

HPP: When did you feel there was going to be a strike?

GLENN: We've been making preparations since 1979. The membership of our lodge is very well educated, because we've been feeding them information all the way through, not just when we came out on strike.

COLIN T: We've had a complete reversal. Our lodge in 1981, when the steel workers were out on strike, we had a meeting which went 60-40% against supporting them. From that day on we've been outside the canteen handing leaflets out. The lodge in Oakdale has been very committed to convincing people that our case is right, giving them the facts and figures. The way Nottingham are now, we were five or six years ago. We were in exactly the same position. It's all a matter of education and understanding what the struggle is all about.

HPP: How many closures have there been in South Wales since 1979?

COLIN T: We've had nine closures since 1981, when Maggie did her famous bodyswerve. Everybody said she'd done a U-turn, but she just moved her body a little and kept going forward.

When Lewis Merthyr was shut in 1981 we came out. They held a national ballot but the Board came up with so much propaganda that there was no coal at Lewis Merthyr that people in places

like Staffordshire said: "We don't want to vote to save a clapped-out pit". The vote was 66% against taking strike action.

What the Board had done at Lewis Merthyr was put in millions of pounds worth of equipment, but it was the wrong equipment, they had to put extensions on all the cogs and put supports under them. It was just typical of what is called "bad planning" by the Board. I call it good planning. If the Board wants to close the colliery, what they do is put in the wrong equipment so the pit becomes "unviable" and "uneconomic".

HPP: A couple of months ago HPP covered the Hackney Greenham Women's visit to Oakdale. How have you adapted, as men, to the more active role women are taking in this strike. How have you accommodated them?

GLENN: I don't think we've had to "accommodate" the women. We've come into this strike and the women have started the support committee and we've worked along with them. We haven't told them they can't have a women's support committee. They've started it and we've worked with them. But we don't interfere in what they do too much.

COLIN W: If the women of these villages want to get involved in politics or the peace movement, they've had the canes to do it. All of a sudden they have become aware of different things, which is good. They have woken up, there's no doubt about it. They were sleeping-- and not only the women-- the men folk, they've woken up too. Let's hope they keep the awareness after this dispute is over and don't go back to sleep. The women can work with the men and there's no problem

COLIN T: It's got to be said that without the women there's no way that the strike would have gone on as long. The women's support groups have been tremendous.

*There was a gala for the kids organised by the Rhondda Valley women's support group. It was absolutely fantastic. One woman epitomised it all when she said: "This fight isn't about my husband's job, it's not about my future. It's about my children and future generations of children." That was the speech that got the greatest applause on the whole day.

COLIN W: If the pits go we've got no future, there's no livelihood. The community's going to die. This sounds dramatic, but it's not. It's a fact.

Previously in mining areas parents would say "I don't want my child to go underground." And now parents are saying, rather than go on the dole and be condemned to a lifetime of misery, they'd rather have their kids down the danger of a mine, because at least they can do something for themselves. We've had the chance to work, the three of us, we've had jobs. There's people who have come out of school who haven't had a chance to do anything. And that's the sad part.

To leave coal underground is such a ridiculous thing when it's the cheapest fuel that we've got in the country. It's the cheapest deep-mined coal in Europe. It costs 19p per therm of nuclear energy, 9p for oil and 3p for coal. This is what the people have got to realise. What has to be discussed is why we're on strike because if we discuss it openly, the Government and McGregor are lost. They just cannot put a case against the NUM argument. This is why they don't want to put it on the television.

This strike is about my children

whatsoever. The women won't take over, but they'll not be idle. They're alongside and that's right. Man's not better than woman. That's my belief and that's how I treat women.

I think years ago, in previous strikes, women tended to say: "Isn't it about time you got back to work?" This time they have realised that there are problems and that they have got to get off their backsides and say "right, we've got to get together." In past strikes the women have been there with the men, but they haven't really had that. This time they have. It's very good.

HPP: Do you think the Government isn't interested in the economic arguments because they want to break the mineworker's union?

COLIN T: They want to smash the Trade Union movement full stop. They realise that the miners are the vanguard of the Trade Union movement. Whenever there has been a dispute, with the health workers or the steel workers for example, the miners have supported them. The government has always realised that the miners have looked on those battles as our battles.

GLENN: "First they came for the BL workers and I did not speak out, because I was not a BL

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Colin Walkes (left) and Colin Tapper (right) at a recent St Leonards meeting. Photo: Neil Martinson

worker. Then they came for the steel workers and I did not speak out because I was not a steel worker. Then they came for the miners and I did not speak out because I was not a miner. Then they came for me. And there was no-one left to speak out for me." I borrowed that from Pastor Niemoller, a victim of the Nazis who used "jews" "communists" and "unions" instead.

HPP: What are your impressions of Hackney?

GLENN: It's totally different from Oakdale because of the different communities that you've got within Hackney. But I have found no matter who we speak to up here they seem to understand the situation that the NUM is in, and that it's not only our fight, that it's a fight for them too, such as the rate-capping issue that you've got in Hackney now, where they want to cut £32m off your budget. It just goes to show that the Tory government are going out there to do what they like. At the moment, people can galvanize around the NUM. And if we win, well then these government policies can be changed.

COLIN T: Take the GLC. That's a prime example of what's happening. When we came up here, listening to the TV and the papers, we understood that all these extremist organisations were being funded by the GLC. Places like Chat's Palace, Centerprise and the Rio cinema. Since we've been up here we've met the people and seen the good they do for the community. It's opened our eyes. About 85-90% of the people we've talked to want to keep the GLC. People say we're only talking to left wing people and the extremists, but we're also talking to ordinary people. We talk to policemen. We get to a broad cross section of the people of Hackney and they all want to keep the GLC. We can go back home now and relate this to people in South Wales.

HPP: How much support have you got from Hackney Council?

COLIN T: They've given us facilities sharing an office in the campaign unit for people to come along and see us and a phone where we can take incoming calls. I've got to say that they've been tremendous. Anything they could do for us they've done. But they're very limited in what they can do. All they can do is give us an office.

COLIN W: We share this office so it's no extra expense on the borough. The office would have to be paid for anyway, so it wouldn't affect the rates.

COLIN T: Betty Shanks, the deputy mayor, she's been tremendous. There's no two ways about it. She's been to South Wales on four occasions, she's spoken in South Wales, she's had people up here. She even arranged a concert with one of our fellas up here in Hackney. Some firm friendships have been founded between Gwent and Hackney.

When the dispute is over, that is the telling time. We want to keep the links going.

HPP: What tactics do you think will win the strike?

COLIN T: My personal view, and I think Colin shares it with me, is that we've got to alienate the government by thoughts, words, by winning people's minds and putting the case forward. The people that are responsible in this dispute are the government. They're the ones saying there's going to be no settlement.

We've got to look to get the general public and the Trade Union movement behind us. That is the only way we are going to win this dispute. We didn't win the battles in '72 and '74 without the support of the public. We've got to have picketing, we've got to stop work-places, but we're not winning public support with violence on the picket line. We've got to look for different avenues. There's no way the strike is

crumbling, I think it's hardening. We're on the home straight now. We've just got to look for ways to cut down the time it takes to win.

that they hope to win, that is the question. Chappell wants a knighthood, Sirs is going to have a knighthood....

GLENN: Murray too.

We need the public behind us

GLENN: I agree with Colin that we don't condone the violence, but that says nothing about the violence that's been conducted by the police. This dispute is always highlighted by the national media as workers against the police force. It's never treated in any other way. All we saw in the paper after Orgreave was "PICKET LINE VIOLENCE" but the police were 95% responsible!

COLIN T: We're criminals because we want a job, this is what the government tell us. If we can get people to realise that it's not criminal to want job, then we can win this strike. The police are being used in this dispute as a personal army to break the strike. Hitler had his brown-shirts. Maggie has her blue-shirts.

COLIN W: When you join the police force they take out your brain and put a pork pie in. These people are pork pie brains because if they're told to go hit people over the head with truncheons, they don't question: "That man is on a picket line, he's fighting for a job. Why should I crack him over the head with a truncheon? Some policemen don't want to do it, but they're put out to pasture."

My son said to me on a march in Newport, he's 10, "Dad," he said, "last year I said I wanted to be a policeman when I grow up. You know what? I don't want to be a policeman anymore."

HPP: What is the NUM hoping for from the TUC?

GLENN: All the NUM is doing is endorsing the TUC policies.

COLIN W: They should back us up.

GLENN: We've done nothing outside the guidelines of the TUC. COLIN W: It's whether they're going to risk the knighthoods

COLIN T: My big fear with the TUC is what happened to the NGA at Warrington and other workers whose cases have been given to the TUC. We've been out of work for six months. As far as I'm concerned there's no way we are going to give our case to the TUC now. If the TUC want to help us, that's all well and good and we'll accept any help that can be given. But they want to take our case—they say "the miners have got to give us their case so we can get around the negotiating table". We haven't struck for six months for Len Murray to go in and make a compromise with Margaret Thatcher that the pit closures will take place over five years instead of three.

What we are looking for from the TUC is for them not to cross picket lines, which is the cardinal sin for trade unionists.

HPP: What have you learned over the last six months of the strike?

GLENN: I've learned a hell of a lot. I've served on the lodge committee for about two years, but I could never have come into a situation like the one I'm in up here, meeting such a lot of other people. Like on weekends I speak at functions, which is something I would never have dreamed of doing before we came into this dispute.

COLIN W: It's been an education for me, the way the government isolates different workforces. Like the Barking situation, the St. Leonards situation, where they close everything down. They get rid of 1,000 beds and put up a new hospital for 200. It's been an education to come up here and see the different peoples. And to have an understanding that the people here want to help someone in South Wales that they don't even know.

To come up to a different area and get the support that we've had; it's been overwhelming. We can't put into words what our feelings are. We've gone around housing estates and people have come out with pennies to give to us and that's just as important as somebody giving a big cheque for £1000, because that's all those people can afford.

Five pounds of food a week is not much. But because people have donated that it's given us hope. We can see that we're not fighting on our own. There's a change.

GLENN: We went on a collection with Chris Smith (Islington South MP) and went to a black family's house. The husband and wife came to the door, and we told them we were collecting for the miners. They had a discussion and went back in and came out with a tin of ham. They said: "here you are, the miners' need is more than ours. We were going to have this for tea. This is our luxury for the week. You have that, we'll have jam instead".

To see that people like that are willing to help us — to have that sort of support — is what keeps us on strike.

PARIS TRIP

Two women and two men from Oakdale, and a bus-load of CP members from Hackney and Lewisham are going to Paris from 8th - 10th September.

This is not for a well-deserved holiday, but to run a stall at the Fête de L'Humanité - a huge event (a turn out of half a million is expected) in one of Paris's parks which makes a GLC festival look parochial. "L'Humanité", the independent French Communist newspaper which organises the event has agreed to give a free stall (they usually cost £700) where the people from Oakdale will sell badges, hand out information about the strike and, hopefully, raise a lot of money for the Food Fund. Hackney Communist Party are underwriting the whole trip.

SWITCH ON AT SIX

REMEMBER . . .

Switching on at 6pm creates a daily peak of electricity demand and means that coal-fired power stations operating at a low level — or those in mothballs until winter — have to be brought into operation. That eats still further into coal stocks.

It is also possible that a big enough switch-on would create an electricity blackout, registering massive support for the strike.

Switch on at six every day. Cookers, toasters, irons, stoves, electric heaters, all use large amounts of electricity.

Just change your pattern so that at 6pm each evening you use the appliances, and, if possible, keep going to 6.30pm.

But the major point to remember is simple: Switch On at Six EACH DAY.

And pass this message on to six other sympathetic people.



HEBREW



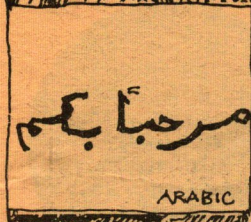
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ARABIC



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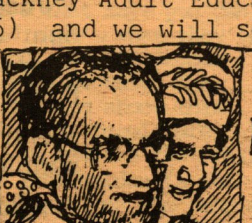
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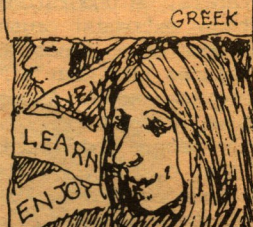
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Cookery/Literacy (Recipes made easy)
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FRI 31	SAT 1	SUN 2	MON 3	TUE 4	WED 5
<h2 style="margin: 0;">INDIANA JONES</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">and the</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">TEMPLE OF DOOM</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">with GEORGE LUCAS Directed by STEVEN SPIELBERG</p> <p style="margin: 0;">6.30 8.45</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DOLBY STEREO</p>					

THURSDAYS + MATINEES + SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY 31 LATE NIGHT	
BENEFIT FOR THE RIO LIVE PERFORMANCE BY STEVE ALKEN FOLLOWED BY FILM, THE NIGHT OF THE JAGUARS PRICE £3.00 CONCESSIONS £1.50	11.00pm
SUNDAY 1 MATINEE CELESTE (15) Ed. Percy Adlon W. Oct. 1981 102m. 00 TO OUR LOVES (15) Ed. Maurice Pialat Fr. 1983 105m. 00	
THURSDAY + MATINEE REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00 Diana Keaton and Warren Beatty All tickets half price.	
THURSDAY + EVENING REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00	

FRI 7	SAT 8	SUN 9	MON 10	TUE 11	WED 12
<h2 style="margin: 0;">DIVA</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">6.45</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mr Lawrence's 8.50</p> <p style="margin: 0;">+ MOTOR MECHANIC 8.30</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Plus movie GB1100m. 00112 mins</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Heart Like a Wheel 8.50</p> <p style="margin: 0;">BONNIE BEDELLA - BLUE BRIDGES</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Richard Hughes on Jeremy Adams's 7.15 Christopher Strong UK 1980 12m. </p>					

FRI 13	FRI 14	SAT 15	SUN 16	MON 17	TUE 18	WED 19
<h2 style="margin: 0;">EL NORTE</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">THE NORTH</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TREASURE OF THE SIERRA</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Maudie (1984)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Bonnie Hughes' Walter Mauton</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Directed by John Huston</p> <p style="margin: 0;">8.30</p> <p style="margin: 0;">NOW TUE 18 6.30</p>						

FRI 21	SAT 22	SUN 23	MON 24	TUE 25	WED 26
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Carmen</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">18.50</p> <p style="margin: 0;">JEREMY IRONS & ORNELLA MUTI</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SWANN IN LOVE</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">ARMED VOLKERSCHONDOFF</p> <p style="margin: 0;">BASED ON THE MOVIE BY MANFRED PROBST English subtitles</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Plus Max Opah's LETTER FROM AN UNKNOWN WOMAN (Fri Sat Sun) 7.15</p> <p style="margin: 0;">(US 1981) 97m. and Percy Adlon's CELESTE (Mon Tue Wed) 7.00</p> <p style="margin: 0;">(W. Germany 1981) 107m</p>					

THURSDAY 27		FRIDAY 28		SAT 29		SUN 30	
REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00 Diana Keaton and Warren Beatty All tickets half price.		REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00		REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00		REOS (15) Ed. Warren Beatty W. Oct. 1981 109m. 00	

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Larry Collier

The death of Larry Collier has robbed Hackney's radical and socialist movement of a true friend and comrade. Doctor, socialist, pacifist, organiser of camps for children, he was a genuine servant of the people.

HEALTH CENTRE

Larry Collier had lived and worked in Hackney as a G.P. for many years. He was always disparaging about doctors who practised in the borough but lived outside it, and he and his partners ran a surgery every day of the year, and refused to use a deputising service. When the Lower Clapton Health Centre was set up, he moved his practice there, and together with a number of younger, politically active other doctors and health workers established what is certainly the most radically-minded and progressive health centre in the borough. His methods were unorthodox, his surgeries crowded, and he preferred to treat his patients as his friends.

WARS

Larry didn't spare himself. He served in the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War. When he lived in Essex he served on both the town and county council. Active in his union, on the Centerprise Council of Management, in the running of Forest School Camps,

campaigning for abortion rights, and editing and writing a booklet on the identification of tablets by their markings. He 'retired' several years ago from active practice in Hackney and went to work in Jamaica as a District Health Officer. A few years later he was back again in Hackney, and working up until the time he died.

RESPECT

He was an idealist and an individualist, who believed most of all in respect for and love of others. As he once wrote in a Centerprise paper: "I know how difficult it is, I do not work with others easily myself, but it must have the highest priority." That is his memorial, and what those of us who knew him will respect and remember him for. We shall miss him, but we thank him for a fine and full life.

URGENT.

Turkish Education Group is looking for premises for a Turkish Neighbourhood Nursery School in Hackney-Islington area.

It will accommodate about 15 children. Urgent reply will be appreciated. Please contact tel no:226 8647 or 359 4315 during office hours.

YOUR PAPER...

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS (HPP) is an alternative non-profit monthly newspaper. We began in May 1973 and have remained totally independent, publishing a wide range of articles on local topics and community activity issues that are ignored by the commercial press or subject to distortion.

We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to serve the interests of ordinary people in a non-racist, non-sexist manner.

HPP is an open community paper-- open to your letters and stories, even if this means that we sometimes appear to be taking two different views at the same time! But just as important we are open to people becoming actively involved in producing the paper. Indeed without people prepared to write, type and lay out the paper it could not exist. HPP IS YOUR PAPER--USE IT!

Our address is c/o 10a Bradbury Street, N16 8JN. For an informal chat telephone Gerry on 986 1436 or Sue on 806 6753 (evenings and weekends).

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for a twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

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THE NEXT

OPEN EDITORIAL MEETING

WILL BE ON

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 12th

at CENTERPRISE

at 7.30 p.m.

COPY DEADLINE:
FRIDAY SEPT. 28th

LAYOUT WEEKEND
29th and 30th September

WOMEN ACT FOR PEACE

A women's action, entitled "10 million women - 10 days" has been called in September to coincide with the NATO exercise in Germany from the 20th-30th September.

Festival

Whilst the Territorial Army play war games in "Exercise Lionheart", there will be women's activities all over the country - from festivals to peace camps to "women's strikes".

There will be a women's festival at Hackney Women's Centre on 22nd September, with a jumble sale, entertainments, information and an exhibition.



Lenthall Road Community Arts Workshop are running a festival of Women's Art Workshops (including dance, maskmaking, drumming, photography, drama) for Black Women only, and workshops for all women, throughout September.

Greenham

Women are encouraged to visit Greenham Common if they can - special coaches are being arranged from Hackney for the weekend 29th-30th September.

One of the eleven Hackney Greenham Groups have written to Hilda Kean, leader of the Council, asking them to release their female employees during the ten days, as Derbyshire County Council



have already offered to do, to take part in the women's peace activities if they so choose.

This is to correspond with the Government's request to employers to release the 57,000 members of the Territorial Army - it is traditionally women who have filled in for men's jobs to enable them to participate in war.

Now you can buy half-a-pound of muesli and a woolly hat in Bradbury Street, N16

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Stop the City...

GREENPEACE (London) and like-minded groups have planned another "Stop the City" event on Thursday 27 September to tie in with the Women's 10 days of action.

After the March attempt to Stop the City, the Times reported: "The banking community struggled to keep money flows moving, despite the unrest... Bank balances were £100m below target overnight."

Participants are hoping for a big turn out, to achieve a similar success on the 27th.

It's important to stay organised in small organised groups and to talk to each other and people who work in the City. Creche, first aid and legal facilities will be available at Finsbury Square and there will be general meeting points at St Paul's and the Bank. For more information contact Box STC, c/o Houseman's, 5 Caledonian Road, N1.

£\$£\$£\$

Police harass collectors in Hackney

Members of the Hackney Miners Support Committee collecting food and money for the striking miners and their families have been systematically harassed by the police over the last few weeks. The situation has probably been worst outside the Stoke Newington Post Office in Brooke Road, where a number of collectors, mainly from Rectory branch of the Communist Party, have been intimidated by the notorious Stoke Newington police.

People have been threatened with arrest and collecting buckets have been confiscated. On one occasion, money seemed to have been taken from the bucket while it was in police custody.

Because of the harassment of street collectors, which is certainly not illegal if a meeting is being held, Hackney Council's Police Committee Support Unit has produced a leaflet advising people of their rights. This is available from the Unit at Hackney Town Hall.

HPP would like to know of occasions in Hackney where people collecting for the miners are harassed: please write to us, c/o 10a Bradbury Street, N.16.

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